trailing ends and said spaced apart sides, said upper surface adapted for placement toward the bone of one of the vertebral bodies and said opposite lower surface adapted for placement toward the bone of the other of the vertebral bodies when said implant is placed between the adjacent vertebral bodies; and

forming a plurality of surface projections as part of the upper and lower surfaces of the implant, each of the surface projections having a base, at least two of the surface projections each having at least one forward facet directed at least in part toward the leading end and at least one rearward facet directed at least in part toward the trailing end, said forward facet and rearward facet being formed to have a length and a slope, the length of said forward facet being longer than the length of said rearward facet, the slope of said rearward facet being steeper than the slope of said forward facet, each of said at least two surface projections being formed to have opposed side facets extending from the base and being directed generally toward said spaced apart sides of the implant, respectively, said side facets being located between said forward facet and said rearward facet of each of said at least two surface projections, said side facets converging toward each other in a direction away from the base, said side facets having a maximum width therebetween at the base, the base of at least one of said at least two surface projections being spaced apart from a base of another of said surface projections by a distance no greater than one-half the maximum width of at least one of said at least two surface projections, said forward facets of said at least two surface projections facing the same direction.

126. (Amended) A method for forming an interbody spinal implant having an exterior surface with a plurality of bone engaging structures for insertion between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the implant comprising a leading end for introduction of the spinal implant into the spine, an opposite trailing end, spaced apart sides therebetween, and a mid-longitudinal axis passing through the leading and trailing ends, opposite upper and lower surfaces between said leading and trailing ends and said spaced apart sides, said upper surface adapted for placement toward the bone of one of the vertebral bodies and said opposite lower surface adapted for placement toward the bone of the other of the vertebral bodies when the implant is placed between the adjacent vertebral bodies; and

forming surface projections as part of the upper and lower surfaces of the implant, at least two of said surface projections each having at least one forward facet directed at least in part toward the leading end and at least one rearward facet directed at least in part toward the trailing end, said forward facet and said rearward facet having a length and a slope, the length of said forward facet being longer than the length of said rearward facet, the slope of said rearward facet being steeper than the slope of said forward facet, said at least two of said surface projections having opposed side facets between said forward facet and said rearward facet, said side facets having at least a first portion in a plane passing through and being at an angle to the mid-longitudinal axis of the implant, said forward facets of said at least two of said surface projections facing the same direction.

204. (Amended) The method of claim 203, further comprising the step of combining the implant with at least one of harvested bone, bone morphogenetic proteins, hydroxyapatite, and genes coding for the production of bone.

206. (Amended) The method of claim 205, further comprising the step of combining the implant with at least one of harvested bone, bone morphogenetic proteins, hydroxyapatite, and genes coding for the production of bone.

208. (Amended) The method of claim 207, further comprising the step of combining the implant with at least one of harvested bone, bone morphogenetic proteins, hydroxyapatite, and genes coding for the production of bone.

210. (Amended) The method of claim 209, further comprising the step of combining the implant with at least one of harvested bone, bone morphogenetic proteins, hydroxyapatite, and genes coding for the production of bone.

Please add the following new claims:

--211. The method of claim 121, wherein the step of forming the plurality of surface projections includes using a milling instrument.

212. The method of claim 211, wherein the milling instrument includes a cutting tool with a V-shaped profile.

213. The method of claim 126, wherein the step of forming the plurality of surface projections includes using a milling instrument.

214. The method of claim 213, wherein the milling instrument includes a cutting tool with a V-shaped profile.--.